

In Search of Happiness

Theme

True happiness is found in Jesus.

Object

Bubbles for blowing; few dollars in cash; bag of chips; video game controller

Scripture

Luke 6:17-26

I am sure that everyone has experienced the joy of blowing bubbles. (Blow bubbles at the kids.) Isn't it funny how something so simple can make so many people happy? It isn't just for kids either! I have even seen teenagers and adults laughing and having fun blowing bubbles and trying to catch them.

There is just one problem with the happiness that comes from blowing bubbles -- it doesn't last! The minute you reach out and touch one of the bubbles, it will burst. (Blow bubbles and have kids try to touch them.) Many times we chase the bubble, but it is always just out of reach and as soon as it touches the ground, the bubble is gone.

Isn't this true for so many people today? A lot of people are chasing after happiness, but like the bubbles, happiness is always just out of reach. Or, just when we think we have it, our bubble may burst. What are some of the things that people believe will make them happy but may fall flat? (Pause for responses.)

Money: (Hold up money.) Many people think that money will bring them happiness, but it doesn't. Once you spend it, it is gone, and you still don't have happiness.

Food: (Hold up the food.) Some people seek happiness in food. They eat because they are sad or depressed and they think that food will make them feel better. It doesn't. After they eat, they are still unhappy.

Entertainment: (Hold up video game controller.) Many people think that doing fun things is the same thing as being happy, but it isn't. Oftentimes, people who are laughing on the outside are crying on the inside.

Popularity: Some people think that being popular with other people will bring them happiness. They will do anything or say anything to make other people like them, but popularity doesn't last. It is here today and gone tomorrow. There is no lasting happiness in popularity.

Jesus knew that people often look for happiness in the wrong places. He even said we might be happier if we were poor, hungry, crying, and disliked by others. Why would Jesus suggest such a thing?

When we are poor, we can trust in God to supply everything we need instead of depending on our own wealth.

When we are hungry for God and His righteousness, we realize that only He can satisfy our hunger.

When we are crying, we can trust in God to comfort us and ease our pain.

When we think we have no friends, we have a friend in Jesus. Jesus is the friend who will never leave us.

We all want to be happy, don't we? Don't spend your time chasing bubbles. Look to your Heavenly Father. He is the source of true happiness.

Dear Father, help us to remember that we can never find happiness by seeking the things this world has to offer. True happiness can only be ours by following Jesus. Amen.

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams

Sermon Title: "Happines Is"

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-23

BEATITUDE PUZZLES: Give each an envelope with one of the beatitudes written on a slip of paper and then cut into pieces. (Luke 6: 20-23) The child will arrange the pieces of paper in the correct order and read the beatitude to the class.

HAPPY HEART: Give the supplies needed to make a happy heart to each child — a piece of construction paper and a heart to decorate with stickers and glitter, then glue it to the sheet of construction paper. BLESSED means HAPPY or other words from our lesson today may then be written on the paper in colorful markers.

HAPPY HEARTS POSTER: The children can pick at least 15 various sizes and colors of hearts that the teacher will provided to the class. They can be cut out hearts or stickers. The poster will have HAPPY ARE THE PURE IN HEART written in large letters in the center. All the various colorful hearts and stickers will then be placed around the edge of the poster to form a heart border!

HAPPY STICKERS: Give the children happy face stickers to decorate a card and color around the edges. Write "Be Happy! Great is your reward in heaven." Attach a refrigerator magnet the back or punch holes in the card add a ribbon or yarn to use as a hanger.

HAPPY PLATE: Give each child a paper plate to decorate by drawing a happy face on it and attaching happy face stickers around the edge. Tape the decorated happy face to a dowel or a paint stirring stick.

HAPPY SNACK SACK: Give each child a small lunch sack and have them write "I'm Happy All the Time" on it. If you wish, they could also decorate the bag with stickers. Then let the child select 3-6 small snacks which the teacher will provide to put into their sack.

Song: "I'm Happy All the Time"

Words and Music (pdf)



Accompaniment Track MP3

Song: "If You're Happy"

Words and Music (pdf)



Accompaniment Track MP3

About Carol Williams

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles the clown.

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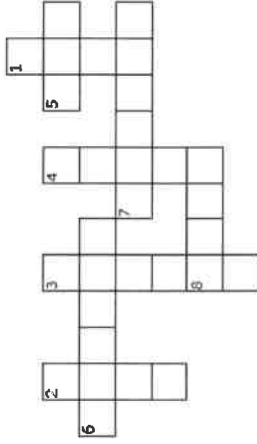
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Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."
 Luke 6:20 (NIV)

Children's Worship Bulletin

Crossword Puzzle

The Beatitudes



ACROSS

- A feeling of great happiness and those who have been saved
- To have a desire or need for food
- Having a great amount of money

DOWN

- Having very little money or few possessions
- To shed tears
- Something given or received in return for good behavior
- The sound which expresses happiness or delight

joy	poor	rich	weep
reward	hungry	laugh	heaven



In Search of Happiness

Luke 6:17-26

Word Search

J L K U Q G K C O M F O R T P
 S H E Z D W C Q U M O U R N C
 A U V P J S E B D W O V H J J
 T N I S O Q O E O A L E O Q C
 I G L E W O T D P N P E V M V
 S E L K O C R K I N G D O M Q
 F R W A E U P Y G R E A T R B
 I I G J U T G R R E W A R D L
 E D E J F G E P W R G E K T E
 D R W M O D H E E I B G L C S
 V S L T U Y A N F C V U I R S
 H Z O L Z Y G X R H S O A V E
 X A C S Y C L G A N J F C L D
 B X T I N E G X I E K C Z I M
 E U F E Y Z O P R B A S S I O

blessed	exclude	evil	insult	comfort
reject	joy	satisfied	hunger	woe
reward	rich	great	kingdom	hate
weep	poor	rejoice	mourning	laugh

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Fill in the Blanks Quiz

Look up Luke 6:20-23 in the Bible. Answers are also in the box below the fill in the blanks quiz.

Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are _____, for yours is the _____ of God.

Blessed are you who _____ now, for you will be _____.

Blessed are you who _____ now, for you will _____.

Blessed are you when men _____ you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

"Rejoice in that day and leap for _____, because _____ is your _____ in _____. For that is how their fathers treated the _____.

Luke 6:20-23 (NIV)

great	hunger	laugh	reward
hate	joy	poor	satisfied
heaven	kingdom	prophets	weep



Blessed

are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
Luke 6:20

COLOR ME!



He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases.
Luke 6:17-18 (NIV)



The Sermon on the Plain

Luke 6:17-26

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